THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) While the new UNESCO rule do not prohibit repetition of applications for grant of World Heritage Status to sites rejected within two years, the new policy resolved in December 2000 and implemented from February 2002 restricts nominations to only one per country.

Therefore, only one of the eleven proposals returned in 1998 was recast and submitted in January 2002.

**Investigative study of history into historical and ruined buildings**

† 4361. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government for investigative study of history;

(b) whether it is proposed to investigate and conduct research afresh by new scientific means into historical and ruined buildings situated throughout the county;

(c) whether excavation work is being carried out at any place at present; and

(d) if so, the progress thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Government has made multifarious efforts for investigative study of history by undertaking archaeological explorations, excavations epigraphical, architectural and archival surveys and studies.

(b) There is no such proposal to investigate and conduct research afresh throughout the country, although study through advanced scientific methods is undertaken on selected monuments as was done and is being done at Ajanta, Ellora, Bhimbetka and the Taj Mahal.

(c) and (d) The progress of the ongoing excavations conducted through April, 2002 is given in the Statement *(See* below).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Statement**

*Site-wise details of the ongoing excavations conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India through April, 2002*

| Sl No. | Name of the site and District | State | Progress |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Pandavula-Konda East Godavari | Andhra Pradesh | The excavation has revealed foundation of two votive stupas and a portion of a drain covered with slabs. |
| 2. | Bakraur (Sujatagarh) Gaya | Bihar | The excavation is revealing a lofty terraced brick stupa measur-ing 66m in diameter and about 11 m. in height. |
| 3. | Chandor South Goa | Goa | The excavation is under way for gathering more information about the temple of 10th—11th century A.D. as well as the fortification at the site. |
| 4. | Dholavira Kutch | Gujarat | At the Harappan city of Dholavira, the excavation has brought to light one more reservoir beside the previously exposed rock-out one. The other large reservoir to the east of the castle was subjected to more exposure. In addition, many Harappan houses along the arterial street of the middle town and a number of late Harappan residential houses on either side of a N-S Street in the castle were |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | also exposed. The find of terracotta of a 'unicorn', many new architectural features as well as antiquities including the typical harappan seals, sealings, weights, beads, metal objects and shell inlay pieces, are noteworthy. |
| 5. | Hathab Bhavnagar | Gujarat | The Sequence from 1st century A.D. to 5th- 6th century A.D. is slowly coming to light. A gold signet ring bearing an inscription that reads "Hastavapra' confirms its identification with Ptolemy's Astakapara, a port related to the Indo-Roman trade of the early centuries of the Christian era. |
| 6. | Ummichioyil Kasargod | Kerala | A cluster of rock cut associated with pottery and antiquities pertaining to the Megalithic culture are found. |
| 7. | Bhimbet Raisen | Madhya Pradesh | The work is being carried out to understand archaeological association of the paintings and to reconstruct the palaeo-environment with the aid of advanced scientific tools for analyses and dating. Excavation has yielded microliths of cryptocrystalline material beside pottery pieces. |
| 8. | Ellora Aurangabad | Maharashtra | Trial excavation near cave No. 29 and 30A has revealed iron implements, pottery of historical period and a terracotta coin mould of Yadava rulers belonging to 9th—10th century A.D. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9. | Udaygiri. Jaipur | Orissa | The present excavation has revealed remains of a rectangular *chaityagriha,* a stupa with *pradakshina-patha,* another stupa decorated with ornamental carvings and sculptures of Avalokitesvara, Amitabha, Chunda and Bhrikuti, in addition to 9 large, 3 small and 40 miniature stupas and 30 stone platforms meant for other stupas of different sizes. Besides, a number of inscriptions bearing the Buddhist creed are also found. |
| 10. | Dhalewan, Mansa | Punjab | A number of antiquities and mud-brick structures of the proto-and mature Harappan and the Kushana-Gupta periods have been found recently. |
| 11. | Mardkhera, Sangrur | Punjab | It has yielded both Harappan and Kushana material in a highly disturbed deposit. |
| 12. | Gingee, Viliupuram | Tamil Nadu | Excavation has yielded a large rectangular building with stucco-ornamentation in addition to terracotta smoke pipe, votive lamps, a miniature copper vase and stone cannon balls. |
| 13. | Sravasti, Baharaich | Uttar Pradesh | The work has also yielded a large number of the Kushana and the Gupta objects of stone, bone, iron, silver, glass, copper and terracotta besides silver and copper coins. |